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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CENTRAL REEXAMINATION UNIT

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In re Reissue Application of
Johannes H. Megens
Application No. 08/747,873
Filed: November 13, 1996
For: U.S. Patent No. 5,042,103
MOVABLE LOADING BRIDGE HAVING AN
INFLATABLE FLEXIBLE BODY

I, Mary Beth Geipel, hereby certify that this correspondence is being
sent by facsimile to (703) 305-1013 to Assistant Commissioner for
Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

Mary Beth Geipel
Signature
March 26, 2003
Date of Signature

Merged With:
In re Reissue Application of
Johannes H. Megens
Application No. 09/598,785
Filed: June 20, 2000
For: U.S. Patent No. 5,042,103

FAX RECEIVED

MAR 26 2003

REEXAM UNIT

In re Johannes H. Megens
Reexamination Proceeding
Control No. 90/006,053
Filed: July 9, 2001
For: U.S. Patent No. 5,042,103

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT SUBMITTED TO
COMPLY WITH 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to a telephone request from Marsha Twitty and Ken
Dorner from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in order to supplement the Amendment filed
May 28, 2002 placing it in compliance with §1.173(c). Specifically, during a telephone
interview on March 25, 2003, Examiner Dorner stated that Applicant must submit a separate
paper in accordance with §1.173(c) identifying the status of all the claims in the application as
well as providing support for the changes made to the claims in the May 28th Amendment. As
required by the Decision Merging Reexamination and Reissue Proceedings, Applicant serves a
copy of this Amendment to James A. Flight, the third party requestor, as evidenced by the
attached Certification of Service. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the
Supplemental Amendment.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

The status of the claims of the present application is as follows:

Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 25-28 are pending; and

Claims 8, 16-24 are cancelled.

EXPLANATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS:

As required under 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c), the following provides explanations in support of the changes made to the claims amended in the May 28th Amendment. Each of the changed or added claims from the May 28th Amendment is re-presented below with all amendments identified relative to the patent claims in effect as of the filing date of this Reissue Application. Therefore, except for cancelled claims, each claim that was changed by the May 28th Amendment includes brackets to indicate omitted matter and underlining to indicate added matter. Applicant identifies support in the disclosure of the patent for the amendments to the claims immediately after each specific claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to read as follows:

-
1. Loading bridge for making a connection between a loading platform and vehicle, comprising:
- a substantially planar member pivotally connected to the loading platform and capable of bearing a load, wherein a rear edge portion of said substantially planar member is hinged along a surface of the loading platform, and wherein a front edge is movable in a direction perpendicular to said surface of the loading platform; [and]
- an inclined base positioned under the substantially planar member, and
- pivot means for pivoting said substantially planar member, said pivot means comprising an inflatable flexible body positioned on the inclined base.
-

Explanation of Support for the Changes Made to the Claims:

The inclined base, as claimed, is disclosed as reference number 13 in Figs. 2, 3, and 5 and in col.2, lines 28-30 and lines 54-56 of the patent.

Claim 25 has been amended to read as follows:

25. A loading bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inclined base is inclined between one and eighty-nine degrees.

Explanation of Support for the Changes Made to the Claims:

52 The inclined base, as claimed, is disclosed as reference number 13 in Figs. 2, 3, and 5 and in col.2, lines 28-30 and lines 54-56 of the patent. Specifically, the original specification (col. 2, lines 28-30) describes that the inclined base extends obliquely downward to the front. One of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that an oblique angle is neither perpendicular nor parallel, and therefore that the inclined base is disclosed as angled between 0 and 90 degrees, non-inclusive, relative to horizontal. In this claim, Applicant chose to claim this feature more narrowly (i.e., between 1 and 89 degrees).

Claim 26 has been amended to read as follows:

26. A loading bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inclined base is inclined between five and eighty-nine degrees.

Explanation of Support for the Changes Made to the Claims:

The inclined base, as claimed, is disclosed as reference number 13 in Figs. 2, 3, and 5 and in col.2, lines 28-30 and lines 54-56 of the patent. Specifically, the original specification (col. 2, lines 28-30) describes that the inclined base extends obliquely downward to the front. One of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that an oblique angle is neither perpendicular nor parallel, and therefore that the inclined base is disclosed as angled between 0 and 90 degrees, non-inclusive, relative to horizontal. In this claim, Applicant chose to claim this feature more narrowly (i.e., between 5 and 89 degrees).

Claim 27 has been amended to read as follows:

27. A loading bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inclined base is inclined between fifteen and eighty-nine degrees.

Explanation of Support for the Changes Made to the Claims:

The inclined base, as claimed, is disclosed as reference number 13 in Figs. 2, 3, and 5 and in col.2, lines 28-30 and lines 54-56 of the patent. Specifically, the original specification (col. 2, lines 28-30) describes that the inclined base extends obliquely downward to the front. One of

ordinary skill in the art recognizes that an oblique angle is neither perpendicular nor parallel, and therefore that the inclined base is disclosed as angled between 0 and 90 degrees, non-inclusive, relative to horizontal. In this claim, Applicant chose to claim this feature more narrowly (i.e., between 15 and 89 degrees).

Claim 28 has been added and reads as follows:

28. A loading bridge and loading platform assembly for making a connection between the loading platform and vehicle, comprising:

a pit floor located within the loading platform;

a substantially planar member pivotally connected to the loading platform and capable of bearing a load, wherein a rear edge portion of said substantially planar member is hinged along a surface of the loading platform, and wherein a front edge is movable in a direction perpendicular to said surface of the loading platform;

an inclined base positioned under the substantially planar member and above the pit floor, and

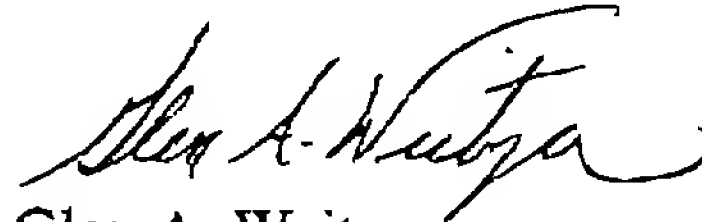
pivot means for pivoting said substantially planar member, said pivot means comprising an inflatable flexible body positioned on the inclined base.

Explanation of Support for the Changes Made to the Claims:

The loading bridge, loading platform, and pit, as claimed, are disclosed as reference numbers 3, 1, and 2, respectively, in Figs. 1-5 and in col. 2, lines 1-15 of the patent. The substantially planar member, as claimed, is disclosed as reference number 15 in Figs. 1-5 and in col. 2, lines 32-44 of the patent. The inclined base, as claimed, is disclosed as reference number 13 in Figs. 2, 3, and 5 and in col. 2, lines 28-30 and lines 54-56 of the patent. The pivot means, as claimed, is disclosed as reference number 22 in Figs. 2, 3, and 5 and in col. 2, lines 45-53 of the patent.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney should the Examiner determine that such action would facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Glen A. Weitzer
Reg. No. 48,337

Docket No.: 053142-9086-02
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CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

As required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.550(f), the undersigned certifies that a copy of this correspondence, including all accompanying documents, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, on the date of the signature below, in an envelope addressed to Requester:

James A. Flight
MARSHALL O'TOOLE GERSTEIN MURRAY & BORUN
6300 Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-6402

3-26-03

Date

Mary Beth Geipel
Mary Beth Geipel

